

# CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

## INTRODUCTION

The National Grasslands were designated as part of the National Forest system on June, 20, 1960, by Administrative Order, signed by the Acting Secretary of Agriculture. Federal ownership of these lands date back to the 1930's, when the Government purchased lands as a part of a program of land utilization and land use adjustment. The program began as an emergency measure under various authorities and continued under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of July 22, 1937. The following list, briefly describes the various actions in chronological order leading to the present status of the National Grasslands:

## HISTORY

1. In 1929 Congress recognized the problem of submarginal land and enacted the Agricultural Marketing Act to authorize the Federal Farm Board to make investigations and reports on land utilization for agricultural purposes.
2. In November 1931 the National Conference on Land Utilization was held. Their goal was to study and make recommendations on how to resolve the problem of restoring submarginal lands. In 1933 the National Land Use Planning Committee prepared a report primarily directed to the concept of public acquisition, retention, and management of submarginal lands.
3. The National Planning Board, established in 1933, later succeeded by the National Resources Board, recommended that the Federal Government acquire some 75 million acres of submarginal land and carry on a long-term policy of land acquisition.
4. As a result, in February 1934, a submarginal land purchase program was instituted by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration under authority of the National Industrial Recovery Act of June 16, 1933. This acquisition program was later continued under the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935. Purchased areas were designated as Land Utilization Projects or LU Projects.
5. Executive Order (E.O.) 7027, dated April 30, 1935, established the Resettlement Administration, while concurrently Executive Order 7028 of April 30, 1935, transferred the Land Utilization Program to the Resettlement Administration.
6. Executive Order 7530, dated December 31, 1936, as amended by E.O. 7557, transferred the Resettlement Administration to the Department of Agriculture. On September 1, 1937, by Secretary of Agriculture Memorandum No. 732 the Resettlement Administration's name was changed to the Farm Security Administration.
7. The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of July 22, 1937, provided a more permanent status for the Land Utilization Program, and by E.O. 7908, dated June 9, 1938, the lands were designated as administered under provisions of Title III of this Act by the Farm Security Administration.
8. Secretary of Agriculture Memorandum 785, dated October 16, 1938, transferred to the Land Utilization Program, including acquisition, development, and management, to the Soil Conservation Service.
9. Executive Order No. 8531 dated August 31, 1940, transferred Public Domain within Land Utilization projects for administration under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act.
10. Executive Order No. 10046, dated March 24, 1949, permanently withdrew all public domain lands within the grasslands boundary from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, except the mining and mineral leasing laws, and reserved them for use, administration and disposition, in accordance with provisions of Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, by the Department of Agriculture.
11. By Secretary of Agriculture Administrative Order dated December 24, 1953, effective January 2, 1954, U.S.D.A. Reorganization Act, administration of these lands was transferred from the Soil Conservation Service to the Forest Service.
12. Effective April 1, 1961, the Chief, Forest Service, group the National Grasslands into administrative units and provided the specific designations currently identified as the Buffalo Gap- Cimarron – Comanche – Fort Pierre – Pawnee – Ogalala – and Thunder Basin National Grasslands.
13. Under date of May 27, 1969, M. M. Nelson, Acting Chief, Forest Service, established administrative boundaries for each of the Grasslands within Region 2, copies of maps on file at the Regional Office.

More detailed information may be obtained by examination of the above documents which are on file in the Regional Office, Recreation and Lands Staff Unit. Copies of deeds, judgments, solicitor's opinions, etc., may be obtained through the Regional Office should they be required to help solve specific questions.